

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 14, 2000

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS, (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-10)

to: Phillip D Havens – KEWN-4
Project Manager

Proposed Action: Ladd Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Additions, Simonis and Wallender Properties

Project No: 1999-056-00

Budget No: F5366

Wildlife Management Techniques of Actions Addressed Under this Supplement Analysis (See App A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS): 1.0 Fee-Title Acquisition, 2.0 Plant Propagation Techniques (Transplanting, Seeding, Irrigation, Fertilization), 3.1 Creating Wetlands, 4.4 Check Dams/Impoundments, 5.2 Culverts, 5.3 Drainage Ditches/Conveyance Channels, 6.0 Fire Management Techniques (Prompt Fire Suppression and Natural Fire Management), 7.0 Vegetation Management: Enhancement and Control (Herbicides, Mechanical Removal, Biological Control, Hand Pulling, Prescribed Burn, Water Level Manipulation), 8.2 Control of Predators and Nuisance Animals, 9.2 Provision of Educational and Recreational Opportunities, 10.1 Land Use Restrictions, 10.3 Road Maintenance.

Location: Union County, Oregon, near LaGrande

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

Description of the Proposed Action: The overall goal of this project is to acquire, enhance, and maintain lands next to the Ladd Marsh WMA for the benefit of wildlife. The WMA is in the Grande Ronde River valley. BPA and ODFW are proposing to acquire and enhance a 308-acre parcel with wetland and riparian habitats (Wallender) and a 375-acre property (Simonis). The Nature Conservancy (TNC) currently has title to both the Wallender and Simonis properties and will be reimbursed through the Federal Wetlands Reserve Program for part of their acquisition costs. BPA will fund the remaining acquisition and enhancement costs. Title will then be transferred to ODFW. Habitat protection and enhancement will be achieved by developing and implementing rehabilitation activities. Diversion ditches will be removed to allow the creeks to flow into their natural channels. Water control structures will be installed to regulate water flows, and wetland and upland habitats will be planted to native vegetation.

Analysis: The ODFW completed compliance checklists for both properties that meet the standards and guidelines for the Wildlife Mitigation Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision.

A list was received on April 17, 2000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) identifying species listed as endangered, threatened, proposed and/or candidate species which may be present in the area of the proposal. The transfer of ownership of the property would have no effect on these species. We have submitted a biological assessment (BA) on the habitat enhancement activities associated with this project to USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). We determined, based on the BA, that this project and the activities associated with implementation of the habitat enhancement will not adversely affect the species listed. ODFW will not take any actions that would affect listed species prior to receiving concurrence on our finding from USFWS and NMFS.

The Archaeological and Historical Services of Eastern Washington University conducted a site file and literature search and a cultural resource survey for historic and archaeological sites on the properties. Their report, dated February 28, 2000, is in the file. Also in the file is the State's concurrence of the non-eligibility of a site identified by the survey.

On January 3, 2000 Fred Walasavage of BPA completed a Phase I Site Assessment and concluded that the site did not reveal any environmental factors that would pose a significant liability for remedial action or cleanup under the Comprehensive Recovery, Compensation and Liability Act. Also included in the file is a letter from the Ladd Marsh WMA Manager dated March 5, 2000 telling how ODFW plans to remove herbicides, motor oil and livestock supplies from the property.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Sections 11.2D.1, 11.3A, and 11.3D of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds; 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Wildlife Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-2965) and ROD, and 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

s/s Nancy H. Weintraub

Nancy H. Weintraub

Environmental Project Lead – KECN

CONCUR: s/s Robert W. Beraud for
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 7/14/00

Attachments:

- Compliance Checklist, Ladd Marsh WMA Additions, Wallender Property
- Compliance Checklist, Ladd Marsh WMA Additions, Simonis Property